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Daily Summary of Positions on INF—Classified DevelopmentsParis To Stick With INF Stance

An Embassy Paris summary of the French perspective on INF notes that Mitterrand, despite some criticism of his recent Bundestag speech, faces little domestic pressure to modify his outspoken support for the NATO dual-track approach. According to the report, Mitterrand is unlikely to change his stance on INF as part of French efforts to improve relations with Moscow. The Embassy points out that Paris has become increasingly apprehensive as political support for the SPD has grown in West Germany. The French also worry that the Andropov proposal may have influenced some Allies to consider taking French nuclear forces into account at the INF talks. The Embassy sees no indication that Paris will tone down its opposition to that prospect and detects lingering suspicion among French officials that the US might eventually press them on the issue.

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British SDP Rejects Anti-INF Stance

Embassy London has reported on several INF-related developments in the UK. The Social Democratic Party's governing council, at the request of the party leaders, rejected an anti-INF resolution at its meeting last Saturday by a 6-to-1 margin. Meanwhile, criticism from the British press and opposition MPs has forced Defense Secretary Heseltine to backtrack on a proposed public relations campaign against unilateral nuclear disarmament. Heseltine now claims that the public relations proposal was only under consideration. In addition, the Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool has endorsed unilateral nuclear disarmament. The Church of England will debate nuclear weapons concerns at a meeting on 10 February; the more leftist British Council of Churches is planning a similar debate on 16 February.

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